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His Majesties

GRACIOUS

LETTER

To His PARLIAMENT of SCOTLAND;

WITH THE

SPEECH.

OF HIS

ROYAL HIGHNESS the *DUKE*,

His Majesties High Commissioner,

At the Opening of the *Parliament* at EDINBURGH, the 28th. Day of *July* 1681.

TOGETHER. With

The *Parliaments* most *Loyal* and Dutiful *Answer* to *His Majesties* Letter.

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DUBLIN

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His *Majesties* Gracious *LETTER* to His Parliament of *SCOTLAND*

CHARLES R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

OUR Inclination to embrace all Opportunities to expreſs Our conſtant Care of, and affection to Our Ancient Kingdom, hath moved Us to Call You together at this time, to adviſe with Us what may truly conduce to the Security and Intereſt thereof: And as We have ever judged Our Own and the Intereſts of Our *Subjects* to be unſeparable, and ſuch as would divide them, to be in their hearts Enemies to both; (Experience having ſufficiently evinced, that all Invaſions upon, or Diminutions of the Rights and Prerogatives of Our Crown, prove fatal, and deſtructive to the *Security* and Property of Our People, which can onely thereby be protected) ſo are they then beſt mannaged and ſecured, when provided for by Unanimous Counſels and Joint Reſolutions. And as it is one of Our greateſt *Satisfactions* that We have been allways carefull of that Our Ancient Kingdom, with a tenderneſs ſuitable to Our great entereſt in it; ſo when We remember the firm and Dutiful Conſtancy which it hath always paid to the Royal Line and Family; and that now it is your Intereſt as well as Dutie to adhere unto it with Unſhaken Loyalty as much as ever; We cannotdoubt of Your Ready and Zealous Compliance at this time, with what ſhall be Propoſed as fit for our *Service*; which can never be divided from the Happineſs of Our People.

And ſince ſome (corrupted with the Rebellious Principles of the Laſt Age, or the Blinde Zeal of this) have at firſt raiſed *Schiſms* and *Separation* in the Church, and afterwards frequent Rebellions againſt Us; We cannot but expect from your Prudent Conſultations, effectual and adequate Remedies for curing theſe Violent Diſtempers at preſent, and preventing them for the future and that you will

will not despise or connive at the smallest Appearances of these Wicked and Seditious Principles, which (how plausibly soever they may be disguised under the old Pretences and fallacious Masks of Liberty and Religion, which are ever least minded by the most Clamorous Pretenders to them) yet in the Issue lead to such Monstrous Effects, and Rebellious Extravagances, as necessarily tend to the Dissolution of all Government and Order: And of which you cannot chuse but be deeply sensible.

This being once effectually done, We may reasonably hope that Our Government in Church and State, as by Law presently Established, shall receive its due Reverence and Obedience, and that all Our good Subiects shall be preserved in Peace, Tranquility and Happiness. For promoting these Great Ends, so necessary to the securing the Protestant Religion; Our Authority and Government, and the Common Interest of Our People, by your Joint Advice, who are so much concerned; and for Enacting of such Laws as Experience hath discovered to be wanting for distribution of Justice in several Cases, which have emerged since Our last Parliament; We have called This; & as an Eminent Expression of Our Favour to You, have named Our most Dear & most Intierly Beloved Brother *James* Duke of *Albany* and *York* &c, to be Our Commissioner therein, whom We have found so Affectionate to You, & to whom You have testified so much Duty During His long stay amongst You, which have enabled Him so well to understand the Affairs and Interest of that Our Ancient Kingdom. And since His Interest is so unseparable from Ours, We shall not doubt of Your Ready and Chearful Concurrence to render His Endeavours amongst You successful for securing Our Government, and Your own Peace & Happiness By doing whereof you will answer the entire Confidence We have in your Prudence and Loyalty; and so We bid you heartily Farwel.

Given at Our Court at Windsor-Castle *the* 12th *Day of* July 1681.
and of Our Reign the 33th *Year.*
By His Majesties Command.

MORRAY.

The

The Speech of His Royal Highneſs the Duke, his Majeſties High Commiſſioner, at the Opening of the Parliament at Edenburg, the 28th Day of July 1681.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AS I have had the Honour to Serve His *Majeſty* in other Capacities, ſo I eſteem it a great Honour and Happineſs, that he hath been pleaſed to make Choice of Me to ſerve Him as His Commiſſioner in this His Ancient Kingdom; Since it ſhows to all the World, the Goodneſs He hath for Me, as well as the Truſt and confidence He hath in Me, and puts Me not only in a Capacity of ſerving Him as becomes a Dutiful and Loyal Subject, but alſo gives Me the Opportunity of letting You all ſee; the real Concern I have for the Good of this Country, and My readineſs to ſerve it, and promote its true Intereſts.

I do not doubt but that this will be a happpy Meeting, and end to the Satisfaction of His *Majeſty*, and all His Loyal Subjectes; which I ſay with the greater Confidence, having now been ſo long amongſt You, and found ſo great a Readineſs in all of You for the advancing of His *Majeſties* Service.

You have heard in His *Majeſties* Gracious Letter, the Reaſons of His Calling you together at this time, and what He doth, and may, expect from this His Ancient Kingdom; of whoſe Loyalty and Affection to His Service, He doth in no manner doubt.

He hath commanded Me to aſſure You, That He will inviolably Maintain and Protect the Proteſtant Religion, as now Eſtabliſhed by Law in this His Kingdom; and that He will upon the ſame Account, Protect and Maintain the Government of the Church by Arch-Biſhops, and Biſhops, and will take their Perſons, and all other their Concerns into His Royal Care and Protection: And doth ſeriouſly recommend to You, to fall upon Effectual Courſes, for Suppreſſing thoſe Seditious and Rebellious Conventicles, from whence proceed

all

all Diſorder and Confuſion, and thoſe Horrid and Extravagant Doctrines, which are a Scandal to Chriſtianity, and a Subverſion of all Publick and Private Intereſts.

I am alſo to Declare to You in His *Majeſties* Name, that it is, & was always His Intention, that Law ſhould have its due Courſe, for the Security of His Subjects Properties and Rights; and that He will always diſcountenance all Courſes contrary to, and inconſiſtent with the Laws of this Kingdom; none being ſo much concerned for their due Obſervance as Himſelf.

And now He doth expect You will not be ſhort of the Loyalty of your Anceſtors, in vigorouſly aſſerting and clearing His Royal Prerogative, and in declaring the Rights of His Crown in its Natural and Legal courſe of Deſcent; and that You will take Care to ſettle and provide ſuch ſeaſonable and neceſſary Supplies, which the Support and Intereſt of His Government call for and require.

And now I hope, that as the Councel have already begun to do their parts to promote the Trade of this Kingdom, that You will alſo do Yours, that it may Flouriſh.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

As the Inclination I had to ſerve and promote the Intereſt of this Kingdom, hath been the chief Inducement to His *Majeſty* to give Me this Oppertunity to convince You of it, ſo You may be ſure I ſhall do what becomes Me to ſatisfie You of the truth of it; and I hope You will have that Conſideration and Kindneſs for Me, as to enable Me to perform His Service.

The Parliaments moſt Loyal and Dutiful Anſwer to his Majeſties Letter.

May it pleaſe Your Sacred Majeſty.

THe manifold ſad Experiences of the fatal Miſchiefs and Calamities which attend Rebellions, muſt needs in due proportion diſpoſe all Your *Majeſties* Subiects to higher meaſures of Loyalty, more particularly Us in this Your Ancient Kingdom; being ſenſible that as we have a more ſpecial intereſt in Your *Majeſties* Sacred Perſon and Family, ſo muſt we inevitably ſhare the more deeply in all the in-

inconveniencies which may disturb or subvert Your Royal Government: And therefore as by our Allegiance We own it our Duty to be Obedient and Loyal to Your Majesty and Your Lawful Heirs and Successors; so Your *Majesties* extraordinary Kindness to such as have continued in their Duty, and Your wonderful Clemency by Your repeated Indemnities) to such as have fallen from it, cannot but kindle in us strong and ardent desires to serve Your *Majesty* with all the Courage, and alacrity of which we are capable and to let Your other Kingdoms and all the World see, that we esteem our Lives and Fortunes to be best employed in maintaining of the *just* Rights and Prerogatives of Your Majesties Crown and Monarchy; the Native Succession whereof cannot be invaded without the utter Subversion of the *Fundamental* Laws of this Your *Majesties* Ancient Kingdom. And this Our Loyalty we esteem our alone Security to avoid those Confusions and that slavery which distracted and ruined us in the last age, and seemeth to threaten us so apparently in this.

SIR,

Though some Rebellious and deluded People have disturbed your Majesties Goverment here, yet their Principles are so extravagant and so few Persons of any Note or Quality are engaged with them, that we may Justly hope their Crimes cannot be imputed to this Kingdom, whose Representatives in this your Majesties parliament will, no less for their Vindication as to what is past, than for their own Security for the time comming, cheerfuly provide suitable and sufficient Remedies; all of us being very sensible that those Distractions and Disorders would in the issue tend to the Dissolution, not only of your *Majesties* Government in Church and State, as the same is by Law Established, but even of all Humane Society.

It is a great satisfaction to us, to find Your Majesty so concerned for the Protestant Religion, not only in your Gracious Letter to us, but in the whole Conduct of your Royal Government; and we shall with all Christian Care and Duty, endeavour to confirm it so as it may become a solid and pious Support to your Royal Family and Mouarchy, and a sure Fence in this disturbed and divided Church,

against

against all the Usurpations and disorders of Popery and Phanatisme that so for the future the pretence of its insecurity may not be made (as formerly) an Engine for carring on disloyal Designs and Practices.

We offer our most humbly and hearty thanks to your most Sacred Majesty for calling us together at this time to consult joyntly the Interestes of your *Majesties* Government, and of your *Subjects* in this you Ancient Kingdom, which we trust shall never be divided: And therefore as the Prerogatives and *just* Rights of the Monarchy, are absolutely necessary for the defence of our Properties and Liberties, so in pursuance of our own Interest, and for further clearing of our Duty and Allegiance by positive Laws, we shall not fail to declare our humble and hearty Acknowledgments of the Just Rights and Prerogatives of your Imperial Crown in its Just, Native and Lineal Course of Descent, and to secure the Just Rights and Liberties of your *Subjects*, so as may fully demonstrate our unalterable Resolutions never to depart from our duty to your Royal Family, and your Lawful Heirs and Successors, to whom we are tied by so many sacred Obligations.

We do also with all humble gratitude acknowledg, the Grace and Honour done to this Kingdom, in naming your Royal Brother to be your *Majesties* High Commissioner in this present Parliament; and indeed the beholding a Son of our Ancient Monarchs, (under whom we and our Ancestors have been so long and happily Governed) in this Character, doth vigorously awaken in us the Remembrance of our native Kindness and Obligation, as his *just* Temper and steady Equality in all our Concerns, cannot but extinguish in us all fears and *jealousis*, of Severity or Partiality, his Interest being inseparable from your *Majesties*, and he being well acquainted with all our Concerns, and so affectionate to and carful of them, your *Majesty* may *justly* expect from a Parliament under the Conduct of such a Commissioner, all that can be *judged* necessary for the Honour and support of your Royal Government and Authority, and for the securing the *just* Rights and Liberties of your *Subjects*; and that, with all the Loyalty, Readiness, and Sincerity which can be expressed by Us.

Signed in Name and by Order of the Parliament, By Your Majesties most Humble, most Faithful, and most Obedient Subject and Servant, Edenburg, the 1st of August, 1681,

ATHOL, J. P. D. Par:

FINIS.